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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of forming an axle assembly comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a cylindrical hollow member having an end portion;
 - b) forming the end portion to provide a first generally circular end,
 - c) forming a section of the cylindrical hollow member into a multi-wall thickness section; and
 - d) welding a preformed kingpin boss to the generally circular end.
2. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of bending the hollow portion to a desired shape subsequent to step c).
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, further including the step of inserting a formable bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to step b).
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step b) includes swaging the multi-wall thickness section into a generally frustoconical shape.
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of swaging the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section after said step a).

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6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
 - a1) inserting a bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to said step b); and
 - a2) simultaneously swaging the hollow member and bulkhead into a generally polygonal cross-section after said step a1) and prior said step b).
7. (WITHDRAWN) A method of forming an axle assembly comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing a cylindrical hollow member having an end portion;
 - b) forming the end portion into a kingpin boss; and
 - c) bending the hollow member to a desired shape.
8. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 7, further including the steps of forming the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section.
9. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 7, further including the steps of:
 - a1) inserting a bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to said step b); and
 - a2) simultaneously forming the hollow member and the bulkhead into a generally polygonal cross-section after said step a1) and prior said step b).
10. (WITHDRAWN) The method according to claim 7, further including the step of forming a multi-wall thickness length in the hollow member.
11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
 - a1) inserting a metallic bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to said step b) such that a portion of the cavity is solid; and
 - a2) simultaneously swaging the hollow member and the metallic bulkhead into a generally polygonal cross-section prior said step b).

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12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 7, wherein said step b) comprises swaging the cylindrical hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 7, wherein said step b) further comprises the step of:

b1) swaging the end portion to form the kingpin boss.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 13, wherein said step b) further comprises the step of:

b2) inserting a metallic bulkhead into the end portion such that the end portion is solid;
and

b3) simultaneously swaging the hollow member and the metallic bulkhead to provide the kingpin boss.

15. (WITHDRAWN) A method of forming an axle assembly comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a cylindrical hollow member having an end portion;
- b) swaging the cylindrical hollow member to provide a non-cylindrical section; and
- c) bending the non-cylindrical section to a desired shape.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 15, wherein said step b) comprises swaging a multi-wall thickness section of the cylindrical hollow member.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

d) inserting a metallic bulkhead into the end portion such that the end portion is solid;
and

e) simultaneously swaging the hollow member and the metallic bulkhead to provide the kingpin boss.

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18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

- d) inserting a metallic bulkhead into the hollow member prior to said step b); and
- e) simultaneously swaging the hollow member and the metallic bulkhead into a non-cylindrical cross-section.